

Hafa Adai!

SHS: Spay/neuter clinic a success. PAGE 2

CUC awarded \$3.4M to upgrade power grid system. PAGE 4

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2024

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Early voting begins today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's elections are fast approaching, this is made evident with early voting starting today at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The Commonwealth Election Commission has announced that early voting for the Nov. 5 elections will begin today at the multi-purpose center for all registered voters.

Doors will open at 8:30am and will remain open until 4pm for the next seven days

See **EARLY** on Page 4

Child in critical condition after near-drowning

By CRYSTAL MARINO
crystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A young tourist is in critical condition after a near-drowning incident at the Kensington Hotel in San

Roque last Sunday.

In a press release yesterday, the Department of Public Safety shared that emergency responders arrived on the scene shortly after 2:56pm last Oct. 27, following reports of an unresponsive child pulled

from the hotel pool.

Witnesses said the child, who was vacationing on Saipan with family, was found unconscious in the water by friends.

Lifeguards immediately advised. See **CHILD** on Page 4



PURPLE PINKIE PROJECT

The Rotaract Club of Saipan, the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, and NMC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society conducted the Purple Pinkie Project on NMC's campus at Mango Terrace as part of World Polio Day last Thursday to help spread awareness and help eradicate polio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MGI: we have been defrauded by the contract

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following the termination of their exclusive master concessionaire contract for Mañagaha Island, Mariana Global Inc. has spoken up about its contract with the Department of Public Lands claiming they were defrauded and baited by the promise of "exclusivity."

Earlier this month, the Department of Public Lands officially terminated the master concessionaire contract for Mañagaha Island awarded to Mariana Global Inc. citing failure to comply with violations to include nonpayment of rental fees.

According to information acquired from DPL, to date, See **MGI** on Page 4

Saipan Tribune to write '30' at year's end

Saipan Tribune will write "30"—or cease operations—on Dec. 31, 2024, according to a statement from the company.

"For more than 30 years, the Saipan Tribune has been a proud and reliable source of news for our island community and the Pacific

region. Saipan Tribune covered historic events in the NMI, featured individuals and groups that created significant impact in our community, highlighted athletes' achievements and students' triumphs, and came up with

See **TRIBUNE** on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan proudly announces its recognition as Micronesia's leading resort for the second consecutive year by the prestigious World Travel Awards.

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WORLD

Russian forces thwarted an attempt at another cross-border incursion by Ukraine into southwestern Russia, a local official reported Sunday, months after Kyiv staged a bold assault on its nuclear-armed enemy that Moscow is still struggling to halt.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

"Venom: The Last Dance" showed less bite than expected at the box office, collecting \$51 million in its opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, significantly down from the alien symbiote franchise's previous entries.

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BIBA MARIANAS - BOTA! Please Vote to Re-Elect!

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For U.S. Delegate



For Saipan Senate



For P1 House of Representatives



For P3 House of Representatives



For P3 House of Representatives



Local

SHS: Spay/neuter clinic a success

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Humane Society has wrapped up one of its most successful spay/neuter clinics to date, thanks to its partnership with the Banfield Foundation and the Mars Ambassador Program.

In a press release yesterday, SHS shared that over eight intensive days, Oct. 14-17 and 22-25, the clinic treated 461 pets, performing 273 surgeries, including several critical procedures that provided immediate relief to animals in need. Among the procedures were 136 spay surgeries for female dogs, an effort that will prevent thousands of unwanted puppies and help control the island's stray population.

With a goal that each clinic is to not only provide essential care but also to address the root causes of animal suffering on Saipan, SHS shared that spaying and neutering play a vital role in reducing the number of strays. As they worked together with our partners, the team was able

to make a substantial impact.

In addition to the spay and neuter operations, the team conducted four life-saving leg amputations and numerous mass removals, ensuring the wellbeing of pets who might not otherwise have access to such medical care. Alongside these surgeries, the clinic managed 188 emergency, sick, and wellness appointments, providing vital support to a range of animals in need.

SHS also highlighted the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program, as they were a critical partner in the clinic's success, contributing daily with two staff members, crates, and hands-on surgical preparation support. "Their training in surgical preparation was invaluable to the clinic's success."

Local rescue organization Boonie Babies Rescue also stepped in, both volunteering at the clinic and spearheading fundraising efforts to help cover the costs of surgeries. The dedication of volunteers like Boonie Babies Rescue reinforces a growing community effort in



SHS
Saipan Humane Society's Lauren Cabrera smiles with a happy patient during their recent spay and neuter clinic last week at their facilities in Garapan.

the CNMI to tackle animal welfare concerns.

Support also poured in from local businesses, which helped fuel the team during their long days at the clinic. A hearty list of sponsors provided meals, including Lucky Bill's, Sushi Spot, The Shack, Loco & Taco, Spicy Thai, Godfather's, and Great Harvest. Pacific Eco generously took on laundering duties, and MarPac contributed a vibrant event banner and trifold display, enhancing visibility for the clinic. AK Auto's donation of a car gave the visiting vet team crucial mobility throughout their stay, ensuring no time was wasted.

SHS shared that the Banfield Foundation's contribution, however, was the backbone of this initiative. They shared that Banfield Foundation's ongoing support for Saipan Humane Society is helping address the urgent need for accessible animal care in the CNMI, especially in a region without a practicing veterinarian. Their mission to make preventive care accessible has been a lifeline for pets on Saipan.

"Saipan Humane Society extends a huge thank you

to Banfield Foundation and its visiting team, Dr. Jessica Nelson and registered veterinary technician Sonja Zgoenski, for traveling thousands of miles to perform as many surgeries as possible during their stay. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and kindness were instrumental to the clinic's impact," said SHS.

"Saipan Humane Society deeply values the continued support from Banfield Foundation, which enables them to continue vital work in the CNMI. Banfield Foundation not only sent the veterinarian and technician for this trip, but also sponsored surgeries! Its mission is to make preventive care possible for the pets that need it most, and they are doing just that by helping our community where there is no practicing veterinarian. Thank you, Banfield Foundation!"

With the conclusion of this clinic, the Saipan Humane Society hopes to continue partnering with organizations and community members to bring more services to the island, easing animal suffering and working toward a sustainable future for Saipan's animal population.

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Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, seventh right, led the Public School System in celebrating the contributions of all 20 public school principals in a group photo taken last Friday at Aqua Resort Saipan. They are Raena Camacho (Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School); Derwin Johnson (Garapan Elementary School); Dr. Ignacia Demapan (Kagman Elementary School); Paulette Tomokane (San Vicente Elementary School); Jasylene Parico (Oleai Elementary School); Lou Connie Manglona (Tinian Elementary School); Daisy Quitugua (Sinapalo Elementary School); Naomi Nishimura (Koblerville Elementary School); and Dr. Lyn Mendiola (William S. Reyes Elementary School); Carla Sablan (Chacha Oceanview Middle School); James Sablan (Dandan Middle School); Hilda Rios (Tanapag Middle School); Cherlyn Osung (Francisco M. Sablan Middle School); and Victorino Borja (Hopwood Middle School), Liz Perzinski (Tinian High School and Tinian Middle School); Annette Calvo (Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior-Senior High School); Vince Dela Cruz (Saipan Southern High School); Ben Jones (Kagman High School); Melanie Sablan Rdiall (Marianas High School); and Christine Tudela (Da'ok Academy).

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho praised all 20 public elementary, middle, and high school principals for their leadership, commitment and service to all stakeholders of public education as the CNMI celebrates National Principals Month this October.

Camacho led the school district in honoring school leaders, saying "Thank you for your service, thank you for your commitment, and thank you for everything that you do for our schools, our students, our teachers and staff, and to our community."

"I'm proud of what our school system has accomplished together, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to work with each of you and see you all work for our kids and their families. Your unwavering belief that we all need to work together in setting every child to academic success," he continued.

At Aqua Resort Saipan, all 20 Rota, Tinian, and Saipan school principals attended a professional development session initiated and hosted by Camacho's office.

The CNMI's public elementary school principals are



Designed as a "refresher," Education Commissioner Dr. Camacho engages all school administrators in a day-long professional development, which talks about the "many hats" they wear.

Raena Camacho (Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School); Derwin Johnson (Garapan Elementary School); Dr. Ignacia Demapan (Kagman Elementary School); Paulette Tomokane (San Vicente Elementary School); Jasylene Parico (Oleai Elementary School); Lou Connie Manglona (Tinian Elementary School);

Daisy Quitugua (Sinapalo Elementary School); Naomi Nishimura (Koblerville Elementary School); and Dr. Lyn Mendiola (William S. Reyes Elementary School).

The public middle school principals are Carla Sablan (Chacha Oceanview Middle School); James Sablan (Dandan Middle School);

Hilda Rios (Tanapag Middle School); Cherlyn Osung (Francisco M. Sablan Middle School); and Victorino Borja (Hopwood Middle School).

The public high school principals are Liz Perzinski (Tinian High School and Tinian Middle School); Annette Calvo (Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior-Senior High School); Vince Dela Cruz (Saipan Southern High School); Ben Jones (Kagman High School); Melanie Sablan Rdiall (Marianas High School); and Christine Tudela (Da'ok Academy).

All of Camacho's key management team and PSS program leaders also attended.

The professional development was also seen as a "refresher" for the commonwealth's school leaders, who wear many hats in carrying out various important roles, from managing school personnel to overseeing the day-to-day operations of schools, from making crucial decisions pertaining to discipline, instruction, and classroom learning to making sure that schools maintain a positive and productive learning environment. **(PR)**

Ogo introduces bill to reserve funds for CBP services

In a continued effort to improve transportation accessibility and streamline passenger processing for the people of Rota and travelers, Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) has introduced House Bill 23-121.

The bill proposes to require the municipality to reserve \$100,000 annually from 4 CMC § 2159, and the Municipality of Tinian the option to reserve the same amount through funds allocated via the Marianas Visitors Authority trust account derived from the Hotel Oc-

cupancy Tax. These funds are designated to reimburse Customs Border Protection for services provided in clearing passengers traveling from Rota to Guam or Tinian to Guam, should Tinian determines the need to provide the service for direct flights to Guam.

This dedicated reserve will remain in place until an international passenger flight becomes available to Rota and Tinian or the bill will expire at the end of FY 2027,

whichever comes first. At that point the funds can be redirected according to the original provision in 4 CMC § 2159 ©. Ogo recognizes the importance of uninterrupted CBP services to facilitate travel, enhance convenience for residents and visitors, and support the growth of inter-island air carriers.

"With the anticipation of additional air passenger carriers, it is essential that we preserve and maintain CBP services. This proactive mea-

sure ensures that inter-island travel remains as seamless and efficient as possible, benefiting the people of Rota and supporting our tourism and local economy," said Ogo.

House Bill 23-121 reflects Ogo's commitment to the infrastructure and connectivity essential for Rota's future, particularly as it aims to expand its tourism appeal and travel capacity.

A copy of the bill is available for view online at www.cnmileg.net or contact Ogo's Office at (670) 664-8888 to request a copy. **(PR)**



Ogo

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Board of Directors
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 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
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 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmports.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the ARFF Classroom located at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

- A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
- B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- C. CORRESPONDENCES**
 1. CPA BOD MEMO 2024-05: (10/24/2024) From Committee Chairman Antonio B. Cabrera informing all Department Heads on the Appointment of Airport Facilities Committee Members
 2. CPA BOD MEMO 2024-06: (10/28/24) From Chairman Ramon A. Tebuteb to the Chairman of Standing Committee on Personnel Affairs regarding the referral of the Organizational Chart.
- D. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- E. AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Thomas C. Mendiola/Rota West Harbor - Funding Request FY 2025-01S: Design-Build Construction of a Vehicular Ramp at Rota West Harbor Commercial Marina.
 2. Revision of Fiscal Year 2025 Budget
- F. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- G. EXECUTIVE SESSION/LEGAL MATTERS**
 1. Executive Director's Report
- H. ADJOURNMENT**

/s/
 RAMON A. TEBUTEB
 Chairman

*All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 • Passcode: 573227

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
 P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:
- PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT**
 - a. General Agency Updates
 - b. Financial Reports
 - c. FY 21, FY 22, FY 23 Audit Status
 - d. Division Updates
 - e. CDBG-DR Updates
- DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT**
 - a. Homeowner Assistance Fund Program Update
 - b. Local Loan Program Update
- OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Elderly and People with Disabilities Grant Program
- NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Amended NMHC Personnel Regulations
 - b. Promulgation of New Regulations for Contracted Employees
 - c. Recession of NMHC Mandatory COVID 19 Vaccination Policy
 - d. Palm Breeze Request to Return and Reallocate LIHTC Tax Credits
- LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. Personnel
 - b. CDBG-DR
- ADJOURNMENT**

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
 Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
 Chairperson of the Board

CUC awarded \$3.4 million to upgrade power grid system

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been awarded \$3.4 million by the U.S. Department of Energy to update its current grid system.

In an interview with CUC executive director Kevin Watson, he shared that CUC recently secured a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for its grid resilience project.

“The Commonwealth Utility Corp. is proud to announce it has secured a \$3,396,253 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to fund a critical project focused on preventing outages and enhancing the resili-

ence of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ electrical grid,” he said.

Watson says the project will involve the development of innovative solutions designed to prevent service interruptions and ensure a more stable, reliable electricity supply for CUC customers by bolstering the resilience of the CUC electrical grid.

“The project aims to better prepare the CNMI for the challenges posed by extreme weather and other unforeseen events. [This project] is basically several individual projects. One is we have an outdated SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) for the

power plant. We are in the process of replacing that and upgrading it. The other is the replacement of wooden poles to concrete poles. That will also be included as part of this project,” he said.

Watson explains that when something happens to the grid, it can cause chain reaction that shuts down the engines ulti-

mately causing an island-wide power outage.

“That’s how this project will help. One of the recent island-wide power outages was when something failed in the grid itself. That will help update that. So, with the SCADA, its more modernized and has features that will help prevent an island-wide power outage. Say

if we lose one engine, it will have features that will keep the others going and other feeders online. We are pursuing additional funding and grants to replace our engines,” he said.

Watson said the project is in the development stages.

“Currently in the project development stage, this initiative underscore CUC’s ongoing

commitment to proving energy reliability and strengthening the power infrastructure across the commonwealth,” he said.

While CUC was granted \$3.4 million for this five-year project, CUC still has to match 1/3 of the grant.

“It’s a long-term project and we’re very fortunate to get this grant,” he said

TRIBUNE

From page 1

other newsworthy stories that helped shape public opinion and initiate changes and positive actions.”

Management said while *Saipan Tribune* has delivered the kind of news stories the CNMI community deserved, shifts in media consumption patterns, driven by advancements in technology, have transformed how audiences access news and information.

“The increased availability of internet access and mobile devices has led consumers to demand instant information, prompting many industries to reshape their business models and move online. This change has redefined the need for the *Saipan Tribune*. In addition, unforeseen calamities in recent years and continuing lo-

cal economic challenges have thwarted our best efforts to sustain the business. We are compelled to make this exceptionally difficult decision, so with a heavy heart we would like to inform you that *Saipan Tribune* will cease its operations on Dec. 31, 2024.”

Management said it is deeply grateful and proud of all members of the *Saipan Tribune* family—editors, writers, photographers, graphic artists, delivery personnel, finance department, sales, and advertising team members.

“Their dedication and commitment have allowed the *Saipan Tribune* to advocate for press freedom and champion journalistic excellence in our region. We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to all our readers, advertisers, and community partners for their valuable support and trust.” (PR)

MGI

From page 1

MGI has not remitted its rental fee for 7/2024-6/2025 in the amount of \$800,000 plus interest of \$12,000 for a total of \$812,000.

In a statement from MGI, it states that the root cause of the contract termination stems from “Uses and Privileges” clause in the contract that granted them the exclusive rights to Mañagaha island.

However, MGI said that in its one year as master concessionaire, they found out that DPL didn’t have the authority to grant exclusive rights of Mañagaha which MGI claims is ultimately fraud.

“In our one year of operation, we found that DPL effectively has no authorities to grant the exclusive rights. In other words, DPL has given us exclusive rights to marine sports that it does not own. This constitutes fraud. All operators who receive permits from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and/or the Division of Coastal Resources Management can conduct marine sports, and all businesses are freely selling their services on the island. Further, not only did DPL fail

to uphold the exclusive rights promised to us in the contract, but they sided with the local vendors in protecting their interests instead of enforcing the contract terms,” said MGI.

MGI adds that because most tourists rent equipment from outside and/or bring food or lunch boxes and drinks onto the Island, MGI could not regulate what equipment or foods and beverages were brought onto the island from outside which essentially obstructed MGI staff from enforcing exclusive rights.

“External operators/local vendors even accompanied DPL staff to protect their customers therefore, these local vendors efforts coordinated with DPL staff effectively negated any exclusivities it promised under the agreement,” said MGI.

MGI claims that the exclusive rights described in their contract was proposed by DPL from the outset as an attractive bait to ultimately impose much greater obligations on the concessionaire.

“With this understanding, we offered to pay excessive rent and various donations to the local community by having the exclusivity granted to us in the contract. However, without the exclusivity in the actual com-

mercial practice thus far, the annual revenue is about \$500,000 whereas the rent, island maintenance and insurances, and community donations have costed us over \$2 million a year. This non-exclusivity forced us to compete in a fiercely competitive market at a huge disadvantage. We had to bear the \$200,000 a month for island maintenance and rent that goes into our product pricing whereas the local vendors, our competition in this case, enjoyed our island management services for completely free while competing against us. This will obviously put us into a perpetual loss situation for any products or services that we may offer in this disadvantageous condition,” said MGI.

MGI notes that it entered in the bidding process on the belief that CNMI is a U.S. commonwealth where the fair standards of the U.S. federal laws and commercial practices apply in Saipan.

“However, ultimately, we have been defrauded by the contract with the impractical exclusivities that DPL granted to the concessionaire. While we see that DPL’s ill-fated commitment to the grant of exclusivity was not intentional to be false or invalid since they recently went through the

regulations amendment effort before stalling to adopt it, the order of their action was completely wrong! It would have been so much better to amend their regulation and adopt it first prior to offering bids to the potential concessionaire with the true and valid exclusivity that now merits a revenue and cost sharing model to be fair to all parties involved. As for us, please understand that MGI is not just an operator. We are an investment company operating hundreds of millions of dollars and have consigned our marketing efforts to McCann Erickson, a world-renowned advertising and marketing company, for millions of dollars for this project. Our offer was to return much of our profits to the infrastructure development of Saipan,” said MGI.

MGI further states that it wanted to install a systematic approach to manage price, quality, and orderly competition while sharing the revenue and the costs of operating the island. However, DPL didn’t seem to comprehend this approach and rejected it with a notification of the contract termination.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2025-001

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD CARE FACILITY IN ROTA

BID SUBMISSION DATE: November 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Project Package will be available on October 29, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhc.gov.net “Procurement Tab”.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Rota Mayors Office Conference Hall in Tatchog, Rota on November 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m. In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

/s/ Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

CHILD

From page 1

ministered CPR until Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics arrived, taking over life-saving measures. Though the child regained breathing, they remained unresponsive as DFEMS transported the young

tourist to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. where they continue to receive care.

The Department of Public Safety renews calls for water safety for all, tourists and residents. DPS expressed concern and reminded both locals and visitors to practice caution around water, adding that while they are committed to providing timely response

in emergencies, they want to remind the community and visitors to stay vigilant and prioritize safety—whether that means supervising children closely or following posted safety rules. DPS also urged everyone to enjoy the CNMI’s beautiful waters responsibly.

DPS also continues to emphasize its commitment to en-

suring public safety and urges the community to practice caution not only in recreational activities but also in their day-to-day routines.

Due to protocol and privacy policies, the identity of the child is not released to the public, but DPS shared that as of yesterday afternoon, the child remains in critical condition.

EARLY

From page 1

leading up to election day.

“We would like to remind all registered voters that early voting starts [today]. The hours for voting will be from 8:30am to 4pm each day for the next seven days (Oct. 29 to Nov. 4),” said CEC.

CEC is encouraging all voters to take advantage of the early voting process.

“If you know that you will be unable to visit your polling place on Election Day, we en-

courage you to take advantage of the early voting process. Please remember to bring an ID with you to help speed up the verification process conducted by election officials,” said CEC.

CEC reminds voters that confined voting service is available for individuals who are unable to vote in person due to health reasons. Additionally, family members are allowed to request confined voting for their relatives.

“Please note that requests for this service must be made by 12pm each day,” said CEC.

CEC adds that curbside vot-

ing is available exclusively for elderly and disabled voters.

“We kindly ask that this service be used only by those who truly need it to ensure a smooth experience and prevent congestion at polling locations. We appreciate your cooperation and encourage everyone to participate in the electoral process,” said CEC.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, a total of 61 candidates will vie for positions in U.S. Congress as well as the CNMI Senate and House of Representatives, municipal councils on Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota, and the CNMI Board of Education for the 2024 general elections.

The highlight of the upcoming election is the U.S. delegate race, a position that has been held by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) for years.

The five delegate candidates are Republican Party of the CNMI’s Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the CNMI Democratic Party’s and House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and independent candidates John Gonzales, Liana Hoffschneider, and James Rayphand.

Bill to adopt CNMI pledge of allegiance introduced

The 19th CNMI Youth Congress heard the introduction of a bill which would establish an official pledge to the Commonwealth flag during the first day of its 10th regular session.

Youth Congress Bill 19-06, co-authored by senator Ayden Yumul of Grace Christian Academy and senator Maili B. Peter of Mount Carmel School aims to establish the “Prinimeti” and the “Akkapal” as the official pledges to the CNMI flag.

In their findings, the bill states: “The Youth Congress finds that the CNMI Official Seal, Flag and Languages were established by Article XXII of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Subsequently, CNMI laws established a CNMI Official Tree, Flower, Bird, and Anthem. However, within the Commonwealth Code, there does not exist an official pledge of allegiance to the Commonwealth flag.”

“Through this legislation, the Youth Congress intends

to establish an official pledge to the CNMI flag, honoring both the official languages and cultures of our Commonwealth.” The bill’s findings further states, the “Prinimeti,” written by longtime bilingual educator Carmen S. Taimanao, and the “Akkapal,” written by Jesus M. Elameto, have been recited by students of schools both public and private for an unspecified period and continues to be recited at school assemblies and at the beginning of either homeroom or bilingual classes. Should the bill be signed into law, it will add a new section to Title 1, Chap. 2, Article 3 of the Commonwealth Code, which also governs the official languages, insignia and languages of the CNMI.

The proposed subsection creating the official pledges

also adds on to standard official protocol by requiring the recitation of both compositions at all official ceremonies within the Commonwealth whether it be live or recorded following the singing of the Commonwealth anthem, the

raising of the flags, and prior to the posting of colors or the exit of the flags following the presentation of colors where the American “Pledge of Allegiance” might also be recited. Youth Congress speaker Vinnie Juan Sablan of Kagman High School referred the legislation to both the committees on judiciary and governmental operations as well as the committee on education for further discussion and disposal.

Also, a resolution honoring Micronesia’s longest running business was introduced

» Resolution honoring Herman’s Modern Bakery also adopted by Youth Congress

by Yumul. Youth Congress Resolution 19-26 was adopted unanimously by the body. The commendation is relative to honoring Herman’s Modern Bakery on celebrating its eightieth anniversary. The company, founded in 1944 by

the late Herman “Tun Herman Pan” Guerrero and now run by his children and grandchildren is not only the region’s longest running business, but Saipan’s first established locally owned business.

Yumul’s resolution goes on

to add the lasting legacy of the company as an example of how a business can truly impact a community for the better, not only as an island institution but also by being a gateway into the local workforce for CNMI youth. (PR)

The Triton’s Call receives \$50K grant to enhance student-led coverage of critical issues in Guam



The Triton’s Call, the University of Guam’s student-led news publication, has been awarded \$50,000 by Press Forward, the nationwide movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. The student publication was selected out of more than 900 applicants across the U.S. to receive funding, aimed at bolstering operations and expanding its editorial capacity. This photo is part of a recent photo essay titled, “Where the Ocean Meets” by *The Triton’s Call* student reporter Keana Ardiente who captures the beauty and diversity of UOG’s student community, with a focus on Indigenous Pacific Islander students from Guam and the broader region.

OIA opens application season for TAG funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Office of Insular Affairs announced that applications for fiscal year 2025 funding under OIA’s Technical Assistance Division has opened. Applications can be submitted to www.Grants.Gov through assistance listing number 15.875.

The announcements for funding include the Technical Assistance Program, the Maintenance Assistance Program, and the Coral Reef and Natural Resources

» Funding includes technical assistance, maintenance assistance, Coral Reef and Natural Resources Program

Program, which includes invasive species funding, all now open with a deadline of March 12, 2025. The announcement for the Brown Treesnake program will open in December 2024 and interested individuals should continue to monitor www.Grants.gov.

Applications for funding through the Office of Insular Affairs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law program remain open until Oct. 31, 2024. While an initial amount of \$2.5 million in funding for the territories was announced in September, a second and final review of applications will be considered under Activity 6—Invasive Species, Activity 8—Revegetation of Mined Lands, Activity 9—Native Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration,

and Advancing the National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework: Early Detection Surveillance for Asset Protection.

“We encourage as wide a variety of applications from the Insular Areas as possible for this fiscal year 2025 funding,” said Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. “However, we continue to prioritize applications that address climate change, energy and natural resources.”

TAP, MAP, and CRNR funding are made available for short-term projects intended to meet the needs of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds are available only to support projects in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It is anticipated that the other competitive financial assistance program provided

through OIA, Energizing Island Communities, will be announced early next year.

Eligible applicants for TAP, MAP, CRNR, BTS and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding are detailed in each announcement. For more information and to apply, visit www.Grants.gov and use Assistance Listing #15.875. While the deadlines listed are Oct. 31, and March 12, 2025, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed once OIA receives full-year appropriations. Applications related to public safety and emergencies may be reviewed early, prior to the deadline. All funding decisions will be finalized by Sept. 30, 2025.

The assistant secretary of Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the insular areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. (PR)

MANGILAO, Guam—*The Triton’s Call*, the University of Guam’s student-led news publication, has been awarded \$50,000 by Press Forward, the nationwide movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. The student publication was selected out of more than 900 applicants to be among 205 local news organizations across the U.S. to receive funding, aimed at bolstering operations and expanding its editorial capacity.

“*The Triton’s Call* plays a vital role in Guam’s media ecosystem by elevating student voices and addressing underreported issues in the local community,” said Manuel Lujan Cruz, publisher of the student publication and assistant professor of UOG’s Communication and Media program. “This funding from Press Forward allows us to enhance our reporting and serve as a platform for impactful journalism.”

Like many communities nationwide, Guam has seen a decline in local newsrooms, leading to limited coverage of critical issues in the Marianas

and the wider region. This decline mirrors a broader trend in the U.S. where financial challenges have led to the closure of thousands of local papers, creating ‘news deserts’ with reduced local news coverage. *The Triton’s Call* steps in to fill this gap by focusing on student-centered and island-based stories, ensuring important perspectives are heard.

A vision for the future

This grant will empower *The Triton’s Call* to fund a paid editorial team of current UOG students and recent graduates to produce investigative, thought-provoking stories year-round by our island’s future leaders in print and audiovisual formats. The funding will also support community engagement through workshops, collaborations with local schools, and journalism projects that reflect the experiences of Guam’s diverse student body.

“Our goal is to build deeper connections with the community while training the next generation of journalists,” Cruz said. “This grant will help us to continue delivering

quality journalism and inspiring meaningful dialogue.”

About The Triton’s Call

The Triton’s Call was established in 1965 as a student newspaper. It now operates as a digital-first newsletter on Substack featuring content created by students of the Communication & Media program and the larger student community. We are committed to providing a platform for student perspectives and focusing on issues that impact the island community. For more information, visit *The Triton’s Call* on Substack and follow on Instagram @tritonscalluog.

About Press Forward

Press Forward is supporting small, local newsrooms in every state and territory with \$20 million in this inaugural round of funding to close persistent coverage gaps. These newsrooms produce essential stories that help communities stay informed and make important decisions about their daily lives. Learn more about Press Forward at pressforward.news. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lies upon lies— Trump's biggest falsehoods can't be settled by defamation cases

The Central Park Five, whose harrowing ordeal is known to most, are suing Donald Trump for claiming, during his debate with Kamala Harris, that they had pleaded guilty to the 1989 rape of a white jogger in the park, who Trump also claimed, falsely, had died.

Boys at the time, they at first confessed and then recanted. The subject came up because Harris criticized Trump for taking out newspaper ads calling for a restoration of the death penalty shortly after the horrific attack, roiling the racial tension of the time.

The five plaintiffs seek to hold Trump accountable in a direct way for his untruths, which can only be done when there are specific people involved who are being lied about in a concrete manner. The verdicts against Trump in the defamation cases brought by writer E. Jean Carroll are some of the few instances where he's been forced to face consequences for his false statements.

There are many lies that the former president tells that are damaging not only to individuals but to our society and our democracy. Chief among these is the big lie of his election fraud claims about 2020.

Whereas his other lies often seem off-the-cuff or simply geared to have him never appear wrong about anything, Trump's tales of millions of noncitizens bussed in to vote; of nefarious election officials and shadowy "deep state" figures coordinating to cheat him of his victory, all serve to prepare him to make the claim that only his win would be legitimate and any loss would inherently not be so. His lawyers have even spuriously called this defamation lawsuit "election interference." There is also the biggest lie of all, that he didn't lose last time.

These lies erode confidence in democracy. Long after Trump is gone from the scene, either next month or in four years, we need to still be a nation that believes in the process.

The web of lies also serves to distract from the plain fact that it serves to lay the groundwork for another effort to interfere with the 2024 voting and counting.

Government bodies like the Georgia State Election Board have been actively working to muddy the electoral process with a clear bent towards giving Trump an opening to push his fraud claims should he not win, a view only bolstered by the fact that the former president himself has shouted them out for these efforts.

As to the Central Park Five, who prefer to be called the Exonerated Five, we don't think Trump even particularly

See LIES on Page 7

FOSSIL FUEL INC.



"We see Climate Change making wildfires and storms more dangerous... So what do we pretend to do about it ?..."

Trump's toxic record on our food and health

While it is rarely a top campaign issue, Americans care deeply about our health and well-being, the food we put in our bodies and what corporations put into our food—especially when it comes to our children. We all want to know our food is safe and free of dangerous chemicals and additives that can cause serious health problems.

This electoral season, many Americans are asking: Who will make America healthier, Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump?

The difference is stark: Widespread evidence shows that Trump's presidency rolled back many regulations governing toxic chemicals, while the Biden-Harris administration acted to reduce our exposure to toxic chemicals.

In July 2017, a few months after taking office, Trump reversed a pending ban on the insecticide chlorpyrifos—a brain-damaging chemical linked to ADHD and autism. Chlorpyrifos is so toxic there are no determined safe consumption levels for infants and children. The reversal came after Trump met with the CEO of Dow Chemical, chlorpyrifos's biggest manufacturer—and after the company donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration ceremony.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found levels of this pesticide are up to 140 times the limits deemed safe for adults in foods kids regularly eat.

On taking office, Biden-Harris restored that ban to protect our health.

Trump's EPA approved more than 100 new pesticide products, many containing ingredients so toxic that they have been banned in other countries. Half a dozen new products, for example, contained the chemical paraquat, a substance so deadly that ingesting a spoonful can be fatal. Seventeen of these products contained the potent hormone disruptor atrazine, and several other Trump-approved products included the dangerous airborne fumigant methyl bromide.

Trump's EPA also failed to act on PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," found in our food, air, water and even breast milk. These substances are linked to cancer, birth defects, thyroid disease, weakened immunity and reproductive harm.

In contrast, Biden-Harris issued the first-ever drinking water standard for PFAS, investing more than \$1 billion to protect Americans from these deadly chemicals.

The Trump administration appointed a former chemical industry lobbyist to head the EPA's division on chemical oversight. Under Trump, the agency rolled back a whopping 112 environmental protections, including regulations protecting our air and water and controlling many toxic substances. The Biden-Harris administration has revived and strengthened many of these critical protections.

Trump further endangered our food and health by abolishing stronger organic animal welfare rules aimed at making our meat supply healthier for both people and animals. The Biden-Harris



**By KARI HAMERSCHLAG and
CHRISTOPHER D. COOK**

Progressive Perspectives

Kari Hamerschlag is deputy director of food and agriculture for Friends of the Earth Action. Christopher D. Cook is an award-winning journalist and author of Diet for a Dead Planet: Big Business and the Coming Food Crisis. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, a project of The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

administration restored these protections. Trump caused additional harm when he reversed limits on bee-killing and neurotoxic neonicotinoid (or "neonic") pesticides in national wildlife refuges and signed an executive order scaling back regulations on GMOs.

Now, as if to magically erase these truths, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has launched a "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) campaign on Trump's behalf. Kennedy insists Trump would end Big Food's influence over federal health policies, "ban the hundreds of food additives and chemicals that other countries have already prohibited," change policies and regulations to reduce processed foods and "clean up toxic chemicals from our air, water and soil."

While Kennedy raises important points about the corporate capture over food and health policy, the facts show these claims have no basis in reality. Kennedy's MAHA bid is completely contradicted by Trump's track record and the interests of his biggest corporate backers, including Big Agriculture and the chemical industry.

And Project 2025, a blueprint for a second Trump term authored in large part by Trump's former staffers, is a repudiation of Kennedy's "MAHA" goals—calling for massive deregulation that will only exacerbate the problems Kennedy rightly identifies. This includes removing GMO labeling and federal inspection requirements for meat and poultry processing; weakening the Endangered Species Act; reducing the influence of EPA science on pesticide approvals; and undermining or even eliminating the science-backed Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

That's not a recipe for a healthier, less toxic America. For all Americans, especially parents, who are rightly concerned about toxic chemicals in our food and environment, Kamala Harris is by far the better choice.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it—Washington and Propst!

The wisdom of our past experiences with trial and error has proven that “if something is not broken that we shouldn't be trying to fix it”—Washington, as the only result will be destructive. Delegate Kilili has done an extraordinary job in Washington for the people of the CNMI. Kilili has created a great working relationship within the U.S. Congress by caucusing with the Democrats who are truly “The People's Party.” The caucus Kilili established has allowed him to do tremendous work in getting the CNMI federal aid from education, our environment, our economy, help for those living at or below the poverty level and more—kudos and thanks Kilili! It is really no secret and obvious to the average voter that Ed Propst is the only one who can legitimately inherit the powerbase established by Kilili that we should not try to change with someone who is not a Democrat. Sending Ed Propst to Washington is what most of us with common sense say is a no-brainer for true!

It is not the time to change our delegate's powerbase and you don't have to be a political scientist to know that we as a people need to send a Democrat (Blue) to take his place, as Jane Mack so eloquently said. Kilili has already established a proven caucus with Democrats, so why would we the people even think about changing it, as if it needed fixing. None of the other candidates can come close to being able to fill the

shoes of Kilili because they are not Democrats, and you must have a party behind you in the U.S. Congress where “adversarial politics and teamwork” bump heads every day. Politics, especially in Washington, is the ultimate team sport and we had better send someone to Washington who can automatically join the winning team—Democrats and it's just that simple voters.

Why would we want to take chances when we don't have to for whatever foolish reason that would surely defy the reality of Washington politics that is driven by parties and caucuses. In fact, a new Democrat will be able to even expand on the support Kilili has already delivered for the people. The opportunity to gain even more support for the CNMI will be a great “starting caucus tool” for Ed to expand on what Kilili has done, as our next delegate will lose the seniority earned by Kilili. Seniority is how real power is delegated in the U.S. Congress for membership and leadership in the various committees. The future will truly be bright for Ed and the CNMI, especially if Harris and Democrats takeover Washington, which is far more likely than Republicans who don't care about us anyway.

If we send anyone other than a Democrat to Washington, we are looking for and even asking for trouble, as it would be a *ka duku* move in the very serious game of Washington

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.



politics! So, given the fact that our delegate is leaving us in great shape in Washington there is no need to even think about changing the status quo, as to think otherwise defies the political gods figuratively. If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it and send Ed Propst, the Democrat, to Washington to continue the federal aid and support without interruption that was established through the extraordinary caucusing work of Kilili. Please don't mess-up Washington voters and send Ed, given we have messed-up the CNMI by constantly electing and re-electing the same-old Republicans and I do mean old! God bless and God speed to Washington Ed—for true!

The US (with Israel) against the world? That must never happen

Good riddance. Not only for Yahya Sinwar, the evil and now dead mastermind behind the terrorist attack of Oct. 7, 2023, but also for those two other Hamas leaders whom Israel recently killed, Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif.

Their elimination has a curious side effect, though: It puts in a bind not only the International Criminal Court in The Hague but also the lame-duck administration of President Joe Biden in the United States, as well as all those American legislators who want their country to be seen as supporting, rather than undermining, international law.

Those three dead terrorists, as it happens, were also the trio for which the ICC's prosecutor, Karim Khan, had sought arrest warrants earlier this year, citing vile “crimes against humanity.” Without them, attention now shifts to the other two arrest warrants Khan demanded at the time—if not for the same reasons. Those named are Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and its defense minister, Yoav Gallant, on charges including “starvation of civilians” in the Gaza Strip and other “inhumane acts.”

Khan's applications are now pending before a tribunal of judges, which has been reading amicus briefs and will eventually decide whether to grant the prosecutor's requests. Even if the applications go through, there's no chance that anybody will ever be handcuffed: Israel, like the U.S., is not a party to the Rome Statute that created the court. The effect will instead be political, and even geopolitical.

That's because these two of Khan's five applications caused indignation not only in Israel but also in the United States, to an extent that endangers America's acceptance of international law as such. Biden, who reliably if sometimes reluctantly has Israel's back, immediately rejected the charges against Netanyahu and Gallant as “outrageous.” America's pro-Israel right was and is incensed by the “the moral equivalence.”

Nothing in Khan's applications had in fact implied “equivalence.” The five hypothetical cases would have unfolded differently, each with its own charges, evidence, timeline and verdict. Khan was merely trying to show the world that he

was not applying international law “selectively.”

But the damage is done. Republicans in Congress, with support from dozens of Democrats, have declared war on the ICC. A bill in the House of Representatives would sanction all those—lawyers, judges, civil servants, clerks—who assist the ICC in investigating these cases, and even their families, by blocking assets, banning travel and the like. In effect, it would impede the practice of international criminal law. Another version is in the Senate, where sponsors are calling the ICC a “kangaroo court.”

This fundamentalist attack on the legitimacy of the court is both surreal and familiar. The U.S. was one of the countries that drafted the Rome Statute in the 1990s but then rejected it. (America has long been wont to flip in that manner, starting in 1920, after it conceived but then spurned the League of Nations.) Sometimes Washington cooperates with the ICC, as when it helps to prosecute Russian President Vladimir Putin for his atrocities in Ukraine. Other times, it threatens to “invade” The Hague.

The U.S. brings a similar ambivalence to the wider system of international law and norms, topped by the United Nations and its tribunal, the International Court of Justice, also in The Hague. Unlike the ICC (which tries individuals), the ICJ handles disputes between states, and South Africa has brought a case accusing Israel of genocide in the Gaza Strip. Israel “rejects this blood libel with disgust,” and the U.S. has its back.

Even though this U.N. court in theory has jurisdiction over both the U.S. and Israel, it's hard to imagine either country accepting any ruling that finds genocide. In that event, the matter would go to the U.N. Security Council. But the U.S. wields a veto there, and would shield Israel as it usually does, even though the Biden administration concedes that such veto politics (also practiced by Russia and China) cumulatively undermines the international order.

Israel has gone further in turning against the system. Speaking at the U.N. last month, Netanyahu called the organization a “swamp of antisemitic bile.” This month, Israel declared the U.N. Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, persona non

By ANDREAS KLUTH

Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.



grata, in theory banning him from entering Israel altogether (whether this is legally possible is moot). Rhetorically, Israel is but a step away from exiting the U.N. altogether, and thereby leaving the international community.

If the U.S. tethers itself unconditionally to Israel, it would be on the same trajectory. This path is unbelievably dangerous. The U.N. system and all the associated organs of multilateralism and law were created — in the rubble of World War II and under American stewardship—to temper the inherent anarchy of world affairs. Was it ever meant to be perfect? Of course not. Its purpose was best described as not “to bring us to heaven, but to save us from hell.”

The two courts in The Hague, moreover, are staffed by professionals with integrity and dedication to evidence. Israel can win these cases. It can also preempt any indictments at the ICC (which is meant to complement rather than replace functioning domestic legal systems) simply by credibly investigating the charges itself. The U.S., meanwhile, should cooperate with both courts, while making clear that it recognizes their authority in principle, even if that means parting ways with Israel one day.

For their part, the judges now deciding on Khan's two remaining applications should of course hew to the evidence, but also be aware that the optics of seeking only two live individuals, both Israeli, look bad. Meanwhile, as the rest of us await the ICC's decision, we can at least take comfort that Sinwar has, in every way but the legal, already met a just end.

LIES

From page 6

stopped to consider he was lying; the man simply doesn't

care much about the truth. They will now have their chance to make him answer for his words, a rarity for Trump.

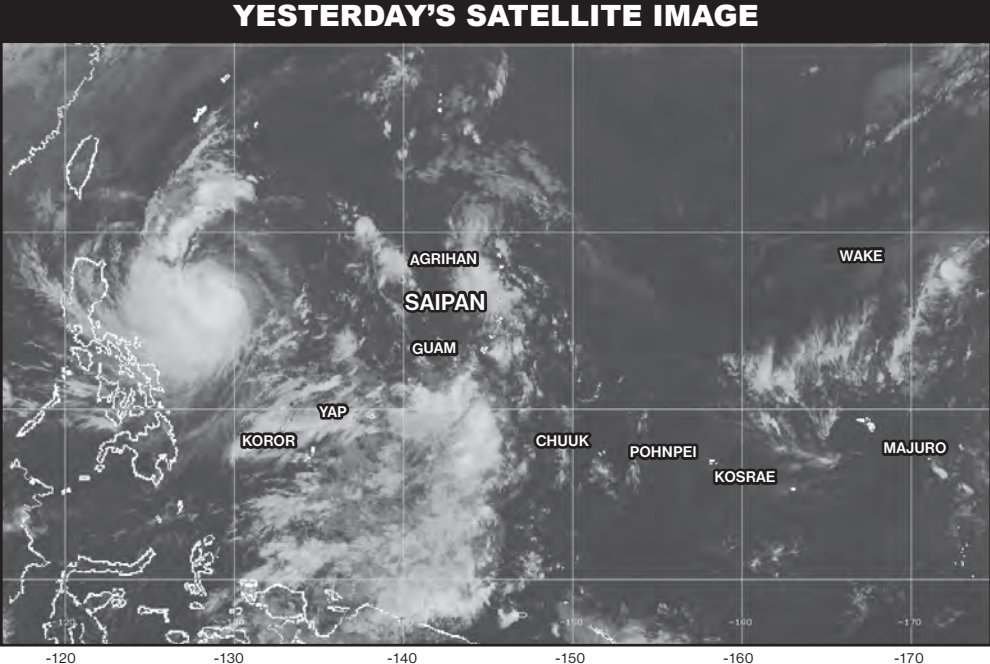
Of course, Trump will have to answer in a sense for everything when the American public passes their collective verdict on him in two weeks. Some people will forgive his

pronouncements, others never will. While most Americans see two real outcomes: Trump wins or Trump loses, the candidate only sees a victory for himself or that he was wrongly cheated. And that is not the truth.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. southeast winds 5 to 15 mph becoming east Wednesday.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
84°	79°	84°	77°	85°	79°	85°	79°	85°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 5:40 AM MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar shows a few moderate showers moving from SE toward the NW across the local coverage area this morning. Mixed and choppy sea conditions rain over the Mariana Islands. Our weather is still somewhat influenced by TS Kong-rey, far to our west over the Philippine Sea, and its still moving farther away. No significant changes were made to the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Sunny	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Sunny	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Sunny	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Sunny	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:25 AM	3:47 PM	-
Wednesday	4:10 AM	4:20 PM	-
Thursday	4:56 AM	4:53 PM	-
Friday	5:43 AM	5:28 PM	-
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:07 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 59°	
Beijing	Fair	65° / 37°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	83° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°	
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 62°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°	
New York	Clear	59° / 46°	
Osaka	Showers	68° / 63°	
Paris	Cloudy	63° / 45°	
Busan	Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°	
Salem	Sunny	76° / 53°	
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 51°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	73° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Clear	61° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:06 AM	Low Tide	0.57	
5:44 AM	High Tide	1.45	
11:45 AM	Low Tide	0.49	
6:01 PM	High Tide	1.73	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan named leading resort for 2nd consecutive year

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan proudly announces its recognition as Micronesia's leading resort for the second consecutive year by the prestigious World Travel Awards. This achievement reflects the resort's unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding hospitality, premium amenities, and memorable guest experiences.

Established in 1993, the World Travel Awards has celebrated excellence across the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors worldwide. In 2024, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan retained its title as Micronesia's leading resort.

Offering 422 rooms, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan seamlessly blends adventure and relaxation. Guests are surrounded by lush tropical gardens, breathtaking views of Micro Beach, and warm island hospitality. Accommodations range from mountain and ocean



CPRS

The 422-room Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan seamlessly blends adventure and relaxation with guests surrounded by lush tropical gardens, breathtaking views of Micro Beach, and warm island hospitality.

view rooms to family suites and accessible options, ensuring that every guest enjoys comfort tailored to their needs.

The resort's dining options feature an international buffet at The Terrace Restaurant, signature cocktails and shareable plates at Mari Bar, cul-

tural performances with dining at the Ataari Dinner Show, specialty coffee and gelato at Market Place, and authentic Japanese Teppanyaki cuisine at Mai Teppanyaki. A variety of recreational activities are also available, from tennis and beach volleyball to yoga and



CPRS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's The Terrace Restaurant features international flavors, featuring a local fusion station, Asian station, Western station, and much more.



CPRS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's The Terrace Restaurant.

more. Guests can take advantage of the fitness center, multiple pools, meeting rooms, and lounge, creating spaces for both productivity and relaxation. Situated in the heart of Saipan, the resort is within walking distance of shops, dining venues, entertainment, and local attractions, making it an ideal base for exploration.

General manager Clayton Darlington expressed joy in the consecutive wins, saying, "We are honored to be recognized as Micronesia's leading resort for the second year. This accolade is a testament to the dedication of our team and their commitment to delivering exceptional guest experiences. We look forward to continuing this celebration as our second-year anniversary approaches."

Your next island getaway awaits at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan—Micronesia's leading resort for two years running.

For more information, email info.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call (670) 234-6412. For more information and updates, follow us on social media, Instagram and Facebook @crowneplaza-resortsaipan. (PR)

Candice Muña to speak at MBN town hall

The Marianas Business Network is hosting an open town hall event on Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 6pm to 8pm at the Last Shot Bar.

This unique forum will feature Candice Muña, a whistleblower at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., who will share her experiences navigating the challenges of speaking out.

This town hall aims to provide an open platform for the community to engage in a candid discussion

about Muña's whistleblowing journey and the current issues surrounding CUC's operations. The event invites all current representatives and candidates running for office to attend and be part of the discussion on issues affecting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its impact on the public.

Attendees will have the opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conver-

sations to promote transparency and accountability.

"This forum is designed to provide a healthy, constructive space for residents and public officials to discuss grievances and work toward solutions," said PK Phommachanh-Daigo, founder of the Marianas Business Network. "We encourage all stakeholders and members of the public to join us for what promises to be an insightful and productive evening."

Event details

What: Town Hall with Whistleblower Candice Muña
When: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6pm-8pm

Where: Last Shot Bar
The event is free and open to the public. Community members are invited to share their views and concerns directly with those in power. This is a rare opportunity to converse transparently about public utilities and governance.

For more information, contact Phommachanh-Daigo at (670) 286-3010 or marianas-businessnetwork@gmail.com.

MBN is a coalition of small businesses and freelancers dedicated to fostering networking, collaboration, and economic growth throughout the Northern Marianas Islands. The network creates spaces for open dialogue on community issues and supports initiatives that strengthen the local economy. (PR)

CANDID CHAT WITH CANDICE MUNA
Whistleblower on CUC

Town Hall Meeting
AT LAST SHOT BAR

Wednesday
OCT 30th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
at LAST SHOT BAR IN
CHALAN KANOA

Speaker

Candice Muna
Whistleblower

MARIANAS BUSINESS NETWORK

A 2 Hour Discussion

Free & Open to the Public

AK Saipan donates rental vehicle to support SHS' veterinary services

Atkins Kroll Saipan was proud to support the Saipan Humane Society by donating a rental vehicle. This contribution helped the Humane Society provide much-needed veterinary services throughout the CNMI, ensuring more animals received the care they required.

This partnership underscored Atkins Kroll's deep connection to the local community and its ongoing commitment to fostering positive change. As a leader in the automotive industry, Atkins Kroll recognized the critical role that mobility plays in supporting essential services like veterinary care. This contribution aligned with the company's global mission of "Bringing mobility to the world's communities—today, tomorrow, and for the better."

Atkins Kroll is committed to driving change and supporting initiatives that uplift the communities of Saipan and the CNMI.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's old-



AK SAIPAN

From left, Sonya Zglenski, RVT, MAP Ambassador Program of the Banfield Foundation; fur friend Mama Dog; DVM Dr. Jessica Nelson, MAP Banfield Foundation; and fur friend Princess Buttercup.

est corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Car, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer

Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. (PR)

World

Russian forces thwart attempted cross-border assault from Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces thwarted an attempt at another cross-border incursion by Ukraine into southwestern Russia, a local official reported Sunday, months after Kyiv staged a bold assault on its nuclear-armed enemy that Moscow is still struggling to halt.

An “armed group” sought

Sunday to breach the border between Ukraine and Russia’s Bryansk region, its governor, Aleksandr Bogomaz, said but was beaten back. Bogomaz did not clarify whether Ukrainian soldiers carried out the alleged attack, but claimed on Sunday evening that the situation was “stable and under control” by the Russian military.

There was no immediate acknowledgement or response from Ukrainian officials.

The region neighbors Kursk province, where Ukraine launched a surprise push on Aug. 6 that rattled the Kremlin and constituted the largest attack on Russia since World War II. Hundreds of Russian prisoners were blindfolded and

ferried away in trucks in the opening moments of the lightning advance, and Ukraine’s battle-hardened units swiftly pressed on across hundreds of square miles (square kilometers) of territory.

Responsibility for previous incursions into Russia’s Belgorod and Bryansk regions has been claimed by two

murky groups: the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion.

Russian officials and state media have sought to downplay the significance of Kyiv’s thunderous run in Kursk, but the country’s forces have so far been unable to dislodge Ukrainian troops from the province. Western officials have speculated that Moscow may send troops from North Korea to bolster its effort to do so, stoking the almost three-year war and bringing geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region.

Russian lawmakers Thursday ratified a pact with Pyongyang envisioning mutual military assistance, a move that comes as the U.S. confirmed the deployment of 3,000 North Korean troops to Russia.

North Korean units were detected Wednesday in Kursk, according to Ukraine’s Main Intelligence Directorate, known by its acronym GUR. The soldiers had undergone several weeks of training at bases in eastern Russia and had been equipped with clothes for the upcoming winter, GUR said in a statement

late Thursday. It did not provide evidence for its claims.

Also on Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow is working on ways to respond if the U.S. and its NATO allies allow Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia with long-range Western missiles.

Putin told Russian state TV that it was too early to say exactly how Moscow might react, but the defense ministry has been mulling a range of options.

Russia has repeatedly signaled that it would view any such strikes as a major escalation. The Kremlin leader warned on Sept. 12 that Moscow would be “at war” with the U.S. and NATO states if they approve them, claiming military infrastructure and personnel from the bloc would have to be involved in targeting and firing the missiles.

He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a nonnuclear nation that is supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country — a clear warning to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Satellite images show damage from Israeli attack at 2 Iranian bases

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran’s onetime nuclear weapons program and at another base tied to its ballistic missile program, satellite photos analyzed Sunday by The Associated Press show.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran’s Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long

has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons program up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Iran’s military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel’s attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country’s air defense systems. Iran announced Sunday a civilian also had been

killed, but provided no details.

Iran’s mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that the Israeli attack “should not be exaggerated nor downplayed,” while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said Sunday that Israel’s strikes “severely harmed” Iran and that the barrage “achieved all its goals.”

Damage spread across three Iranian provinces

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. There have been no images of damage so far released by Iran’s military.

Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces. Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around Iran’s Tange Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it wasn’t immediately clear if it was related to the attack. Ilam province sits on the Iran-Iraq border in western Iran.

Japan’s ruling coalition loses majority in lower house, creating political uncertainty

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba’s ruling coalition lost a majority in the 465-seat lower house in a key parliamentary election Sunday, a punishment by voters’ outrage over the governing party’s extensive financial scandals.

Ishiba’s Liberal Democratic Party remains the top party in Japan’s parliament, and a change of government is not expected. But the results create political uncertainty. Falling short of a majority makes it difficult for Ishiba to get his party’s policies through parliament, and he may need to find a third coalition partner. The LDP’s coalition retains a majority in the less powerful upper house.

All told, the ruling coalition with junior partner Komeito secured 215 seats, down sharply from the majority of 279 it previously held, according to Japanese media. It is the coalition’s worst result since briefly falling from power in 2009.

Ishiba took office on Oct. 1 and immediately ordered the election in hopes of shoring up support after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, failed to address public outrage over the LDP’s scandals.

“The results so far have been extremely severe, and we take them very seriously,” Ishiba told Japan’s national NHK television late Sunday. “I believe the voters are telling us to reflect more and become a party that lives up to their expectations.”

Ishiba said the LDP would still lead a ruling coalition and tackle key policies, compile a planned supplementary budget and pursue political reform.

He indicated that his party is open to cooperating with opposition groups if that suits the public’s expectations.

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, led by centrist leader Yoshihiko Noda, made huge gains to 148 seats, from its previous 98. “We accomplished our goal of preventing the ruling coalition from a majority, which was a major achievement,” Noda said.

Noda called the election a rare chance for a change of government, and said he seeks to lead a coalition with other opposition groups to do so. But his party has had trouble finding partners, and many voters were skeptical about the opposition’s ability and inexperience.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

'Venom: The Last Dance' misses projections as superhero films' grip on theaters loosens

NEW YORK (AP)—"Venom: The Last Dance" showed less bite than expected at the box office, collecting \$51 million in its opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, significantly down from the alien symbiote franchise's previous entries.

Projections for the third "Venom" film from Sony Pictures had been closer to \$65 million. More concerning, though, was the drop off from the first two "Venom"

films. The 2018 original debuted with \$80.2 million, while the 2021 follow-up, "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," opened with \$90 million even as theaters were still in recovery mode during the pandemic.

"The Last Dance," starring Tom Hardy as a journalist who shares his body with an alien entity also voiced by Hardy, could still turn a profit for Sony. Its production budget, not accounting for

promotion and marketing, was about \$120 million — significantly less than most comic-book films.

But "The Last Dance" is also performing better overseas. Internationally, "Venom: The Last Dance" collected \$124 million over the weekend, including \$46 million over five days of release in China. That's good enough for one of the best international weekends of the year for a Hollywood release.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Tom Hardy in a scene from "Venom: The Last Dance."

Still, neither reviews (36% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) nor audience scores (a franchise-low "B-" CinemaScore) have been good for the film scripted by Kelly Marcel and Hardy,

and directed by Marcel.

The low weekend for "Venom: The Last Dance" also likely insures that superhero films will see their lowest-grossing year in a dozen years,

not counting the pandemic year of 2020, according to David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment.

Following on the heels of the "Joker: Folie à Deux" flop, Gross estimates that 2024 superhero films will gross about \$2.25 billion worldwide. The only upcoming entry is Marvel's "Kraven the Hunter," due out Dec. 13. Even with the \$1.3 billion of "Deadpool & Wolverine," the genre hasn't, overall, been dominating the way it once did. In 2018, for example, superhero films accounted for more than \$7 billion in global ticket sales.

Gérard Depardieu will appear in court in Paris on sexual assault charges

PARIS (AP)—French actor Gérard Depardieu is expected to appear before a criminal court in Paris on Monday over the alleged sexual assaults of two women on a film set in 2021.

Depardieu, who previously has denied any wrongdoing, is accused of using "violence, coercion, surprise or threat" in the alleged assault, which prosecutors said took place on the set of "Les Volets verts" ("The Green Shutters.")

Prosecutors say that in both cases, victims reported that the 75-year-old actor trapped them between his legs and groped their buttocks, genitals, chest and breasts over their clothes.

The trial comes as France continues to reckon with sexual violence in the wake of the #MeToo movement that struggled to find traction especially in the cinema industry.

One of the victims has been identified as a 53-year-old

production designer. The Associated Press doesn't generally identify victims of sexual assault without their consent. Her lawyer did not respond to an AP's email on that matter.

According to Paris prosecutors, the woman told investigators that she'd first heard sexual remarks from Depardieu and then one day, as she walked past him, he had "grabbed her, attracted her towards him, blocked her with his legs, and groped her waist, hips and chest, accompanying her gestures with obscene remarks."

Three people witnessed it, prosecutors said, confirming that the woman made an attempt to break off Depardieu's grip and that she seemed "shocked." A psychiatrist examination granted her a seven-day leave.

After the incident, it was arranged for Depardieu to apolo-

gize. But in a TV interview aired Saturday, she said the actor was furious and blamed her for causing trouble. Prosecutors said witnesses confirmed that what Depardieu had said did not constitute an apology.

In the interview with French online news site Mediapart, the production designer—who spoke on camera but only gave her first name—said the alleged assault had taken a toll on her personal and professional life for at least 1 1/2 years. She said she could not sleep well, suffered anxiety attacks and lost weight.

The woman, according to prosecutors, said it had taken her awhile to file a complaint but decided to do so after hearing on television that there had never been an incident during the shoot.

The month before the alleged assault, another woman also working on the film's set had complained about Depardieu, Paris prosecutors said.



Depardieu

Timothée Chalamet crashes his own look-alike contest after police shut down crowded event

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Timothée Chalamet made a surprise appearance at his own look-alike contest in Lower Manhattan on Sunday, an event that drew hundreds of onlookers, a dispersal order from police and at least one arrest.

Flanked by bodyguards, Chalamet briefly posed for photos with his high-cheeked, curly haired doppelgängers, some of whom had dressed as the actor's characters in "Wonka" and the "Dune" movies.

But just as the wannabe-Chalamets began strutting along a red carpet in Washington Square Park, police ordered the large group to disperse, slapping organizers

with a \$500 fine for an "unpermitted costume contest."

At least one contestant was taken away in handcuffs, though police did not immediately say why. A spokesperson for the NYPD said charges were pending.

"It started off as a silly joke and now it's turned pandemonium," said Paige Nguyen, a producer for the YouTube personality Anthony Po, who staged the event.

The organizers had posted flyers for the contest—which promised a \$50 prize to the winner—around New York in recent days, spurring social media speculation and thousands of RSVPs to an online invite.

After leaving the park, the

group soon found a backup location in a nearby playground, where more than a dozen contestants competed for audience approval from a makeshift stage.

What makes a good Chalamet?

"It's all in the nose," said Lauren Klas, a 27-year-old graphic designer who clung to a fence post to get a better view of the stage. "All of his bone structure, really."

After winnowing down the group down to four, the remaining contestants were asked about their French proficiency, their plans to make the world a better place and their romantic intentions with Kylie Jenner.

End-of-year celebration flies off the rails

DEAR ABBY: I chaired an event with a local service organization. Many hours were exhausted with planning and decorating. During the program, a few members playfully started throwing some items from the centerpieces at the guest speakers. By the end of the program, most of the room's centerpieces were dismantled and on the floor.

My committee had the job of cleanup, which was difficult and tedious. We felt the many hours we spent planning and doing hard work were disrespected because of these juvenile antics. This was an end-of-year program, ringing in new officers and celebrating a wonderful previous year, and there are always some lighthearted shenanigans. But I've never experienced total chaos before. Should I say something or chalk it up to celebrating a successful year's end?

FLABBERGASTED IN TEXAS

DEAR FLABBERGASTED: Were these lighthearted members drunk or just disorderly? "Lightheartedly" destroying the centerpieces and throwing parts of them at the speakers? How disrespectful to everyone involved, not to mention potentially dangerous! I don't think what happened should be ignored. By all means, speak up. You and the other committee members are certainly entitled to let the perpetrators know how it made you feel. You're not the only person who is flabbergasted. So am I.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How do I tell my friend "Lila" that I think she'd be happier if she got divorced? To be clear, I don't think her relationship is unsafe -- it's just unhappy. Things have been rocky with her wife for a while now. They keep trying to work things out, but every few months, something new comes up or becomes a problem again.

Lila cares deeply about her wife. She really wants to make things work, but I constantly hear she feels neglected and unattractive because of how her wife treats her. I'm obviously only hearing half the story, but it seems like Lila is putting in all the effort to make the relationship work, and her wife isn't responding in kind.

Part of the problem may be that Lila is introverted and doesn't have many friends besides her wife and me, which may be why she clings so hard to that relationship. I think both of them would be happier if they stopped trying to make the marriage work and went back to being friends, but I don't know how to tell Lila that, or even if I should. Please help.

LISTENING IN MARYLAND

DEAR LISTENING: Stay out of it. Lila needs a friend and a sounding board at this point, not a life coach. If her marriage is as dysfunctional as you have described, she will figure out sooner or later whether it's time to "dial it back" or to end it. Understand that when divorces happen, most couples don't "go back to being friends" unless there are children involved.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



■■■

DEAR ABBY: What can I buy for Christmas for my brother who is terminally ill with cancer? Nothing seems right -- not music, books or any of the things he has always enjoyed. I'm at a loss. Any thoughts?

SADDENED IN OREGON

DEAR SADDENED: I am so sorry about your brother's diagnosis. The surest way to give him something he will enjoy would be to ask him what he would like. His activities may be diminished, but he can point you in the right direction.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby —Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

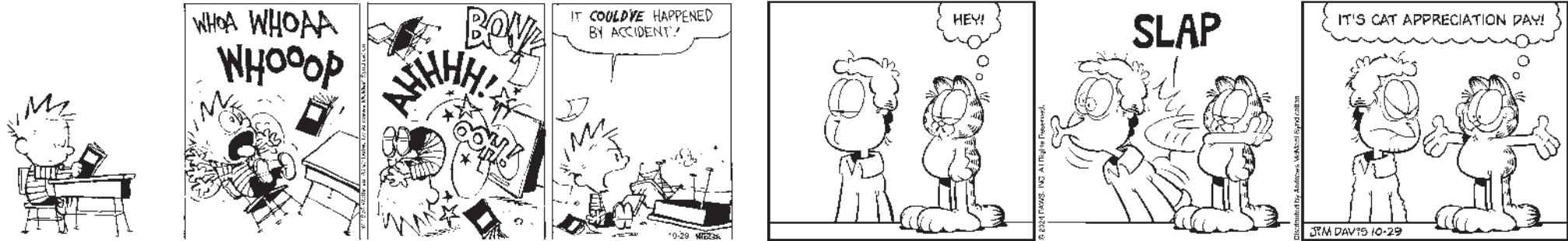
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

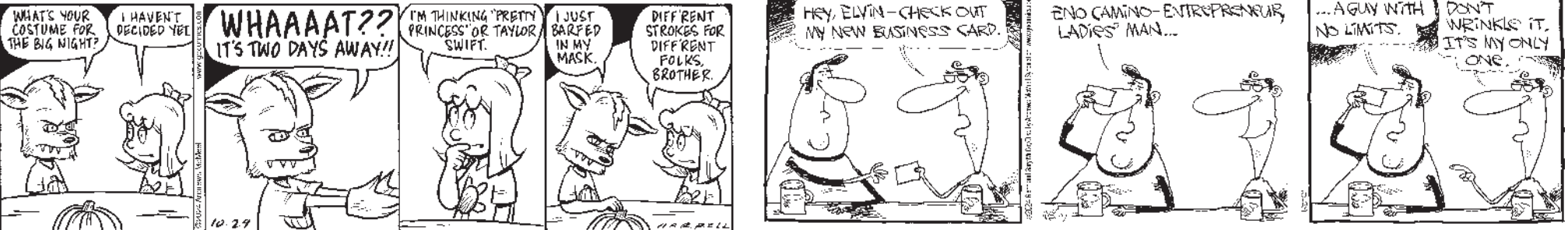


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Guitarist
Atkins

5 Wine
selection

8 "Phooey!"

12 Uncivil

13 Past

14 New
Age
singer

15 Others
(Lat.)

16 Seductive
spy

18 Corre-
sponded

20 Per-
mitted

21 Ornate
vase

22 Madre's
sibling

23 Muffles

26 Makes
a differ-
ence

30 Pig-poke
link

31 Goal

32 — chi

33 Roald
Dahl
heroine

36 Meager

38 Josh

39 Chinese
chairman

40 Popular
typeface

43 TV role
for Andy
Griffith
or Kathy
Bates

47 Arrays of
numbers

49 Muscat's
land

50 "Super-
food"

51 Lennon's
partner

52 Get up

53 Actress
Ward

54 Chignon

55 Leftovers
recipe

3 Work on
proofs

4 Poodle
variety

5 Asian
noodles

6 "Zounds!"

7 Speck

8 Prepare
left-
overs

9 Scram-
bled wd.

10 Model
Banks

11 Go
yachting

17 Landed

19 Day
fractions
(Abbr.)

22 Highland
hat

23 Badly lit

24 Santa —
winds

25 Wrestling
surface

26 Soccer's
Hamm

27 JFK info

28 Scooted

29 Command
to Fido

31 Do sums

34 Greek
island
in the
Aegean

35 Taylor of
"Mystic
Pizza"

36 Used a
chair

37 Hues

39 Brick
worker

40 Latin I
word

41 Indy
event

42 Slanted
type
(Abbr.)

43 Diner's
card

44 Skip

45 Sher-
lock's assign-
ment

46 Recogn-
ized

48 Cam
throw-
away

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Foster, 44; Gabrielle Union, 52; Winona Ryder, 53; Richard Dreyfuss, 77.

Happy Birthday: Tune in to what makes you happy and head in that direction. Take responsibility for your peace of mind and your ability to use your skills efficiently to meet your needs. Customize your spending and expectations, and you'll gain confidence and willpower to make your dreams come true. Opportunity comes to those willing to go the distance and make things happen. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 27, 32, 39, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your energy where it counts. Letting anger get the better of you will deter you from reaching your goals. Personal gain, self-improvement and expanding your awareness, interests and knowledge will lead to an interesting opportunity and promote new directions and better money management. Romance is favored. ☼☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take the initiative. Use the skills and attributes you enjoy to help pay the bills or bring you peace of mind. Whether you are trying to take care of your mental, physical or financial well-being, taking a step in a direction that excites you is in your best interest. ☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to buy into someone else's dream. Engage in conversations to expand your interests; you'll discover what makes you happy. Don't be fooled into appeasing others when the only one you need to please is yourself. Focus on what makes you smile and boosts your confidence. ☼☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rethink your current situation and connection with those you spend the most time with, and you'll decipher what to do next. Putting time and

energy into something that simultaneously makes you feel alive and encourages you to earn more will be a game-changer. Stop making excuses. ☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for opportunities and participate in events that introduce you to something or someone you find engaging and entertaining. Expanding possibilities and creating options will encourage you to rethink your plans and to distance yourself from those trying to make choices for you. You can't buy love. ☼☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A straightforward approach will speed up the transformation you require to find peace. Be ready to let go of anything and anyone standing in your way. Honesty will enlighten and encourage you to change what's confusing or stifling your progress. Live, learn and do what's best for you. ☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow your heart. Your emotions will lead to changes that will help you get your life together physically, financially and emotionally. Don't waste time second-guessing yourself. Actions speak louder than words. Take the path that soothes your soul and offers greater opportunities to be yourself. ☼☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change will spark your imagination and encourage you to venture down a path that ignites your mind and enables you to follow what makes you feel passionate about life, love and achieving happiness. Reach out, absorb, discover and integrate your findings into your routine. ☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make updates that get you up to speed. Show off a new look, walk way from people and situations bringing you down or causing you grief, and redefine or put a new twist on your attributes and skills to fit what's trending in the workforce.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



It's time to get moving. ☼☼☼☼

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's all about money, integrity and taking care of business. Refuse to let emotions interfere or cost you. Size up situations and eliminate what stands between you and what you want. Look and play the part and strengthen your position. Skills mixed with common sense will suffice. ☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A pick-me-up will help you get back on track, but only spend what you can afford, or your euphoria will be short-lived. The idea is to reduce worry and frustration, not add to it with debt. Focus on self-improvement and honing the skills you enjoy using most. ☼☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for a sign that points you in a direction that's good for you and promotes what you do best. Avoid being tempted by someone suggesting indulgent pastimes or joint ventures that put you in unnecessary debt. Discipline and acting on insight, not impulse, will pay off. ☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are curious, intense and resourceful. You are energetic and proactive.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty: ★★

10/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty: ★

10/28

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GLENDURGAN GARDEN, U.K. Solution: 6 letters

MAZEDIRTSSTNAIG
MANDERSONSHILLR
NATIONALTRUSTDE
KFHCNEBRABUHRUE
LORCHIDSVNTIERN
AXSYASMIDTSSVGM
WFELEOLEURATOAO
AALIOLHLKTCORNO
IMBLASLNERCRGBR
LIBGEAAACBAIEEL
LLELWBHHVIECVAO
EYPNYOANONPUICO
MPRLUREGRASSLHH
AOSDQUAKERSOBC
CHERRYLAURELIOS

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Apple Shed, Bench, Bloom, Bluebells, Camellia Walk, Cherry Laurel, Coast, Cornwall, Durgan Beach, Fox Family, Giant's Stride, Grass, Green, Historic, Holy Bank, Lily, Manderson's Hill, Maze, National Trust, Olive Grove, Orchard, Orchids, Pebbles, Pond, Quakers, Rain, Rhubarb, School Room, Soil, Tea House, Valley, Village
Yesterday's Answer: Leader
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

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Maxey scores 10 in OT as 76ers beat Pacers, 118-114



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tyrese Maxey scored 10 of Philadelphia's 13 overtime points Sunday and finished with a season-high 45 as the 76ers beat the Indiana Pacers 118-114 for their first win of the season.

Maxey dominated the second half, scoring 14 of Philadelphia's last 18 points in the third quarter and rallying the 76ers from a 102-97 deficit in the final minute of regulation.

Caleb Martin added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, while Eric Gordon finished with 15 points in the return to his home state. Andre Drummond scored nine points and grabbed 17 rebounds.

Pacers All-Star Tyrese Haliburton rebounded from a scoreless Friday night in New York with 22 points, including a circus 3-pointer with 3.5 seconds left to force overtime. But he missed two free throws late in overtime which would have tied the score at 116.

Pascal Siakam added 17 points for Indiana, which lost its fourth home opener in 17 seasons.



Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey (0) and Indiana Pacers' T.J. McConnell (center left) go for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in Indianapolis. AP

NETS 115, BUCKS 102 NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Thomas scored 32 points, Dennis Schroder added 29 and Brooklyn beat Milwaukee in their home opener to give coach Jordi Fernandez his first victory.

The Nets pulled away in the fourth quarter after opening with two road losses in their first season under Fernandez, a native of Badalona, Spain.

Thomas scored 11 in the final period to surpass the 30 points he had averaged in the

first two games.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who have dropped two straight after winning their opener. Damian Lillard scored 21 points and Bobby Portis Jr. had 16 points and 10 boards.

BLAZERS 125, PELICANS 103 PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Jerami Grant scored 28 points to lead Portland to a victory

over New Orleans for their first win of the season.

Anfernee Simons pitched in 27 points and six assists as the Blazers bounced back from a 105-103 loss to the Pelicans on Friday. Deandre Ayton finished with a double-double of 17 points and 12 rebounds.

CJ McCollum had 27 points to lead the Pelicans in the second of a two-game set against

his former team.

After New Orleans opened the game with an 8-0 run, Portland stormed back and took a 59-47 lead into halftime. The Blazers extended the lead to as many as 24 in the second half.

Portland bullied the Pelicans on the glass, posting a 51-39 rebounding advantage and a 22-15 advantage in offensive rebounds.

THUNDER 128, HAWKS 104 OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 35 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and Oklahoma City beat Atlanta in a matchup of teams that had won their first two games.

Gilgeous-Alexander fell just short of what would have been his third career

triple-double.

Chet Holmgren had 25 points, nine rebounds and six blocks and Jalen Williams added 20 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City outscored Atlanta 39-18 in the fourth quarter. The Thunder made 14 of 23 field goals in the final period while Atlanta made 6 of 20.

Trae Young had 24 points and eight assists for the Hawks. He only attempted 14 shots while being harassed by Oklahoma City's guards. He had at least 30 points and 10 assists in each of his first two games.

CLIPPERS 112, WARRIORS 104 SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry left midway through the fourth quarter with a left ankle injury as Ivica Zubac and Los Angeles spoiled Golden State's home opener with a win.

Zubac had 23 points and 18 rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points with a 3-pointer at the 3:47 mark of the fourth that made it a one-point game. Curry added 18 with six assists but left for good at the 7:55 mark. He tweaked his ankle late in the third then briefly tried to return with 8:08 left in the game before sitting down for good.

James Harden contributed 23 points and 11 assists making all nine of his free throws for a Clippers team missing Kawhi Leonard as the star forward is sidelined with a right knee injury.

Heat unveil statue of Dwyane Wade outside the front of team's arena

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade is now the first Miami Heat player with a statue outside the team's arena.

The Heat unveiled the statue Sunday, about eight months after team president Pat Riley announced plans for the tribute. Wade is Miami's all-time leading scorer, and he and Udonis Haslem are the only players to have been on all three Heat teams that won NBA championships.

"This is crazy," Wade said moments after the unveiling. "I wanted to feel this. Life goes by so fast and it's very rare that we get to feel things, because we're always off to the next thing. ... I wanted to feel this, man. I wanted to look at it."

An in-game celebration will follow Monday when Miami

plays host to Detroit on the 21st anniversary of Wade's debut game with the franchise.

Wade, a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, is one of six former Heat players to have their number retired by the team—along with Haslem, Chris Bosh, Tim Hardaway, Shaquille O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning.

"As the greatest player ever in Miami Heat history, yes, it's his day, it's his family's day," Riley said.

The statue is accompanied by a wall listing Wade's career accomplishments and has been placed outside the front doors of the team's arena. Wade is now a part-owner of the Utah Jazz in addition to having many other business interests.

JJ Redick comes clean about watching game film in car wash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—JJ Redick has come clean about watching game film at the car wash. Baron Davis spotted him there Saturday and posted about it on the social platform X. Davis, a first-round pick in 1999, played 13 seasons in the NBA for the Golden State Warriors and the Los Angeles Clippers, among others. "Just ran into @jj_redick at the Car Wash. he had the Laptop watching film!!!! Players coach!!! Lakers in great hands," Davis wrote. Redick, in his first year as the Los Angeles Lakers coach, said a Lakers spokesperson told him about the social media post before the team was set to host the Sacramento Kings as the second game of a back-to-back. "It's the circumstance of the back-to-back," he said, when asked how common it is

for him to watch game film in public. "Basically, I spent last night and this morning on tying the bow from last night's game and a little bit looking forward to today. This morning, it was no different." He said his two sons had basketball games in the afternoon and the car wash was next door. "Very efficient use of time," he said. "I watch a lot of film, but that's not normal, no. Thanks, Baron." The Lakers beat the Phoenix Suns 123-116 on Friday night for their first 2-0 start since 2010-11.

Zion Williamson back in Pelicans lineup after missing opener

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—New Orleans forward Zion Williamson was in the lineup on Friday night against the Portland Trail Blazers after missing the Pelicans' opener. Williamson, who averaged 22.9 points per game last

season, was scratched from the team's game Wednesday night against the Chicago Bulls because of an unspecified illness. "It's huge to get Z back," Pelicans coach Willie Green said before facing the Blazers. "He's excited. Our group is excited to get on the floor tonight and get after it." Green said Williamson is on a minutes restriction. "It won't be full throttle, but we'll see how he feels once he gets on the floor," Green said. The 6-foot-6 Williamson, the first overall selection out of Duke in the 2019 NBA Draft, played in a career-high 70 games last season. Because of injuries, he's missed 207 career games.

Bucks say Andre Jackson Jr. was unhurt in single-car wreck after Saturday morning workout

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks reserve

guard Andre Jackson Jr. was involved in a single-vehicle wreck after his team's Saturday morning workout but didn't require medical attention, the team said. A Bucks spokesperson said Jackson was alone in his car and that the incident didn't result in any injuries. The spokesperson said Jackson will be joining the team for its Sunday game at Brooklyn. Jackson was a key player on UConn's 2023 national championship team. The Bucks acquired him in a draft-day trade that year after he was selected in the second round with the 36th overall pick. The 6-foot-6 guard averaged 2.2 points, two rebounds and 10 minutes in 57 appearances as a rookie last season. He played a minute in the Bucks' 124-109 season-opening victory at Philadelphia on Wednesday and didn't see any action in their 133-122 loss to the Chicago Bulls on Friday.

Daniels' buzzer-beating Hail Mary TD gives Commanders win over Bears



LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Jayden Daniels connected with Noah Brown on a 52-yard Hail

Mary as time expired to give the Washington Commanders an 18-15 victory over the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

Daniels scrambled for several seconds before heaving the ball from the Commanders 35-yard line. It was deflected about 3 yards short of the goal line and fell into the arms of Brown, who was standing alone in the end zone.

Chicago had taken its first lead with 23 seconds left in the game, going ahead 15-12 on a 1-yard TD run by Roschon Johnson after a pass-interference penalty on the Commanders (6-2). The Bears (4-3) had their winning streak snapped at three after falling behind 12-0 and giving up the Daniels-to-Brown play that sent players and fans in the stands into a frenzy.

The unlikely TD was Daniels' 21st completion on 38 attempts while playing through a rib injury that left his status uncertain until hours before kickoff. In the NFL's sixth matchup of rookie quarterbacks taken with the top two picks in the draft, Daniels threw for 326 yards and ran for 52.

LIONS 52, TITANS 14

DETROIT (AP)—Jared Goff threw three touchdown passes and David Montgomery was the first of five players to score in the first half for the Detroit Lions, who romped past the Tennessee Titans 52-14 on Sunday.

The NFC North-leading Lions (6-1) have the conference's best record after winning five straight games, averaging 40-plus points over the last four.

Detroit had its highest-scoring game since a 55-point performance against Chicago in 1997, and scored at least 50 for the fourth time in franchise history.

The Titans (1-6) were routed for a second straight week and have already signaled this is a rebuilding year by trading veteran receiver DeAndre Hopkins and starting linebacker Ernest Jones Jr.

Detroit has been on a roll lately by leaning on Goff, but it had more points (42) than he had passing yards (28) early in the third quarter. He finished 12 of 15 for 85 yards.

EAGLES 37, BENGALS 17

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jalen Hurts rushed for three touchdowns and passed for another TD, helping Philadelphia pound Cincinnati for their third



Washington Commanders wide receiver Noah Brown (85) catches a 52-yard touchdown pass in the end zone as time expires to give the Commanders an 18-15 win over the Chicago Bears in an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in Landover, Md.

consecutive victory.

Hurts was 16-for-20 passing for 236 yards. He also had 10 carries for 37 yards.

Saquon Barkey rushed for 108 yards as Philadelphia (5-2) won for the fourth time in five games overall. The Eagles scored the last 20 points of the afternoon.

Hurts' 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter capped an 85-yard drive that ate up 7:37 of the clock, giving Philadelphia a 34-17 lead with 4 1/2 minutes left.

CARDINALS 28, DOLPHINS 27

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Kyler Murray drove the Cardinals into position for a game-winning field goal by Chad Ryland as time expired for the second straight week, and Arizona spoiled Tua Tagovailoa's return from a concussion, beating Miami.

Murray led two scoring drives in the fourth quarter to rally the Cardinals from a nine-point deficit. The first concluded with a 2-yard touchdown run by James Conner that got Arizona (4-4) within 27-25. The second was a methodical 13-play, 71-yard march that ended with Ryland's 34-yard kick. A week earlier, Ryland was good from 32 yards on the final play to beat the Los Angeles Chargers 17-15.

Tagovailoa threw for 234 yards and the Dolphins (2-5) had their best offensive performance of the season in his first start since he was diagnosed with the third known concussion of his career against the Buffalo Bills on Sept. 12. He was designated to return on Monday after doctors deemed it safe for him to play. He cleared the concussion protocol Friday following an examination by an independent neurological consultant.

PACKERS 30, JAGUARS 27

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Backup Malik Willis completed a 51-yard pass to Jayden Reed that set up Brandon McManus' second winning kick in as many weeks, a 24-yarder that lifted Green Bay to a victory at Jacksonville.

Willis rallied the Packers (6-2) to their fourth consecutive win, this one with Jordan Love watching from the sideline. Willis completed 4 of 5 passes for 56 yards, with a touchdown and the biggest completion of the day.

Willis found Reed wide open down the left sideline after safety Andre Cisco fell down in coverage. It was all the Packers needed to rebound from Trevor Lawrence's perfectly placed, 14-yard touchdown pass to Evan Engram that helped tie the game.

PATRIOTS 25, JETS 22

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Rhamondre Stevenson plunged into the end zone with 22 seconds left and New England recovered after first-round draft pick Drake Maye left with a concussion early to beat Aaron Rodgers and New York.

Starter-turned-backup Jacoby Brissett replaced the quarterback who replaced him and led the Patriots (2-6) on two fourth-quarter scoring drives to snap a six-game losing streak and send the Jets (2-6) to their fifth loss in a row.

Stevenson scored two touchdowns and also caught the 2-point conversion that made it 25-22. Rodgers took over at his own 30 with no timeouts and missed one deep pass before connecting with Davante Adams for 16 yards, but far from the sideline.

BROWNS 29,

RAVENS 24

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jameis Winston threw a 38-yard touchdown pass—his third of the game—to Cedric Tillman with 59 seconds left as Cleveland stunned Lamar Jackson and Baltimore to snap a five-game losing streak.

Making his first start in two years and replacing injured starter Deshaun Watson, Winston helped the Browns (2-6) take down their AFC North rival.

But only after surviving a late comeback attempt by Jackson, who drove the Ravens (5-3) to Cleveland's 24 in the final seconds. Jackson brought time to avoid sacks and threw two incompletions into the end zone, the second to Zay Flowers as time expired.

Following the play, Jackson threw his helmet in anger in front of Baltimore's bench as the Ravens' five-game winning streak ended with a surprising loss.

TEXANS 23, COLTS 20

HOUSTON (AP)—C.J. Stroud threw for 285 yards and a touchdown and Joe Mixon ran for 102 yards with a score to help Houston to a win over Indianapolis.

Stroud bounced back after he had a career-worst 86 yards passing in a loss to the Packers last week to allow the Texans (6-2) to extend their lead atop the AFC South.

Houston's defense intercepted Anthony Richardson once and hurried and harassed him all game as the Texans swept their season series with Indianapolis (4-4) for just the second time in franchise history.

FALCONS 31, BUCCANEERS 26

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Kirk Cousins threw for 276 yards and four touchdowns to help

Atlanta take sole possession of first place of the NFC South with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Kyle Pitts scored on receptions of 36 and 49 yards and Cousins also tossed TD passes of 30 yards to Darnell Mooney and 7 yards to Bijan Robinson to give the Falcons (5-3) a two-game sweep of the season series between the division rivals.

Baker Mayfield threw for 330 yards and three TDs, but also tossed a pair of costly interceptions. The Bucs had a chance to win it after driving to the Atlanta 33 in the closing seconds, however Mayfield's Hail Mary throw from the 38 was caught by Rakim Jarrett behind the end zone as time expired.

CHARGERS 26, SAINTS 8

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Ladd McConkey had two touchdown catches, including a 60-yard score in the third quarter, and became the first Chargers rookie receiver in 11 years to have a 100-yard receiving game as Los Angeles defeated New Orleans.

Justin Herbert had 328 total yards (279 passing, 48 rushing) and two touchdown throws to help the Chargers (4-3) bounce back from a last-second loss last Monday night at Arizona.

The Saints (2-6) have lost six straight for the first time since 2005. Alvin Kamara, who signed a two-year, \$24.5 million contract extension earlier this week, had 122 total yards. Chris Olave had eight receptions for 107 yards.

Jake Haener replaced an ineffective Spencer Rattler in the third quarter and completed nine of 17 passes for 122 yards.

BILLS 31, SEAHAWKS 10

SEATTLE (AP)—Josh Allen threw two touchdown passes and surging Buffalo turned his first interception of the season into an afterthought, pummeling Seattle.

James Cook rushed for 117 yards and two touchdowns for the AFC East-leading Bills (6-2), who were in control throughout and won their third straight.

Allen finished 24 of 34 for 283 yards. He ran his streak of passes without an interception to 300 before Josh Jobe picked him off in the second quarter. But Seattle (4-4) turned the ball over on downs after that pick, with quarterback Geno Smith stumbling after he took the snap on fourth-and-goal from the 1. Allen responded by leading a 12-play, 93-yard drive—the Bills' second drive of 90-plus yards in the first half—for a 14-3 lead.

BRONCOS 28,

PANTHERS 14

DENVER (AP)—Bo Nix threw three touchdown passes and ran for another and Denver's defense throttled Bryce Young in the Broncos' win over injury-riddled Carolina.

In the best game yet of his rookie season, the Broncos quarterback threw for 284 yards. He found Nate Adkins from 3 yards and Adam Trautman from 19 yards in the second quarter as the Broncos (5-3) built a 21-7 halftime lead.

The Panthers (1-7), who listed a whopping 22 players on their injury report and lost two more players Sunday, lost for the fifth consecutive time.

Young was 24 for 37 for 224 yards with two TDs and two interceptions.

CHIEFS 27, RAIDERS 20

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Patrick Mahomes passed for 262 yards and two touchdowns and two-time defending champion Kansas City remained undefeated with a victory over reeling Las Vegas.

The Chiefs (7-0) extended their winning streak to 13 games, including the playoffs. Their last loss was at home to Las Vegas, but the Chiefs are 5-0 against the Raiders at Allegiant Stadium and 6-0 there including the Super Bowl in February.

Las Vegas (2-6) has lost four consecutive games, but this was the first time the Raiders had scored at least 20 points since a 20-16 victory over Cleveland on Sept. 29.

Mahomes became the fastest quarterback in NFL history to reach 30,000 yards, doing it in his 103rd game. Matthew Stafford had hit that mark at 109 games.

49ERS 30, COWBOYS 24

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score to send San Francisco into their bye week on a high note with a victory over Dallas.

The Niners (4-4) bounced back from a loss last week in a Super Bowl rematch against Kansas City with a strong performance against the Cowboys (3-4) that they hope will set them up for another big push in the second half of the season.

San Francisco went 16-2 following its Week 9 bye week the past two seasons to make it to the NFC title game in 2022 and the Super Bowl last season.

Purdy led three straight touchdown drives to turn a 10-6 halftime deficit into a 27-10 lead, but San Francisco had to hold on late after Dak Prescott threw two TD passes to CeeDee Lamb to cut the deficit to six.

Ohtani set to play for Dodgers in Game 3 following shoulder injury



NEW YORK (AP)—Concerns seemed to vanish and Los Angeles Dodgers players wore smiles at Yankee Stadium as they prepared for Game 3 of the World Series:

Shohei Ohtani was set to play Monday night despite a partially dislocated left shoulder.

Ohtani got hurt sliding into second base when he was caught stealing to end the seventh inning of Saturday night's 4-2 victory over the New York Yankees in Game 2 at Los Angeles.

Fans and teammates wondered whether Sho could go this week.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts made Ohtani's presence atop the batting order sound close to a sure thing.

"I just don't see him not playing

Game 3," Roberts said before Sunday night's workout. "If he feels good enough to go, then I see no reason why he wouldn't be in there."

Ohtani did not travel with the team to New York in order to undergo imaging. He was on a separate flight.

"As far as test results, we've got doctors scrambling everywhere. I don't have them," Roberts said. "This is more me going by the training staff, Shohei feeling good this morning, range of motion, strength."

Ohtani was due to arrive at the ballpark in time for the workout, which started at 6 p.m. EDT. Roberts said Ohtani had taken dry swings since the injury and was going to hit off a tee and take batting practice in an indoor cage.

"That's going to be telling," the manager said. "He's got to still go through the workout and swing the bat, but, again, today feels better than yesterday, and our assumption is tomorrow's going to feel better than today."

Roberts said the injury causes pain but "it's just everyone's tolerance."

"I don't see him being compromised," he added. "It's the left shoulder, which is the back shoulder. So I don't see how that affects his hitting, if he's able to go."

Seeking their eighth title and second in five years, the Dodgers lead 2-0 in the best-of-seven Series. Walker Buehler starts Game 3 for Los Angeles against Clarke Schmidt.

"If he is able to play, willing to play, he's going to play," Roberts said of Ohtani. "Schmidt will know that Shohei's in the box, so that means everything."

Ohtani clutched his left forearm after being tagged by shortstop Anthony Volpe for the final out in the seventh on a feetfirst slide. He laid near the bag for a couple of minutes before being tended to by athletic trainers and leaving the field.

The likely NL MVP was 0 for 3 with a walk in Game 2. He is 1 for 8 in the first two games of the Fall Classic and is batting .260 with three home runs and 10 RBIs in his first postseason in the majors.

A two-time AL MVP with the Los Angeles Angels, Ohtani joined the Dodgers last December for a record \$700 million, 10-year contract.

GOLFERS

From page 16

a total net of 147. Second place was Saipan's Dominique Kieffer who fired a 75 and 79 gross score for a total net score of 154.

Third place was T.J. Hubert who shot a 78 and 79 gross score for a total net score of 157, while fourth was Saipan's Zhi Yunli at 80 and 81 for a total net score of 161.

In the Ladies Low Net, first place was Rose Cunliffe who had a total of 194. Second was Hyranie McAuslen at 175, and third was Si-rena Cassidy at 200.

For Kim, she said that the competition was great. "Although we had some rain on Saturday, overall, it was perfect weather to play golf. Not too hot. The golf course was beautiful, well maintained. Competitive course to play because I had only one practice round."

On how she felt about winning, she said, "I didn't have a feeling that I would win this competition because on the first day I shot 89. I had a few bad driver shots and all my putting was so bad. So on the second day I really put myself down and told myself to just play like I'm playing in

Saipan with my friends with no pressure. I was lucky I got paired up with my friend Young Min Choi. We play golf together in Saipan and she is my lucky charm because I play [well] when I'm playing with her."

She added, "Also, I had so many lucky shots. Even some missed shots ended up in a good place to hit. It was my day. Shot 75 and that is my lifetime best score. Can't believe I made my new record in a tournament." She said her hardest hole to play was number four. "It's a short par 4 but somewhat hard to play for me. I couldn't use the driver in that hole, and ended up using 5 wood." The easiest, she said, was No. 11. She said it was a short par four and not too challenging.

For Kieffer, it was her first time to compete for golf in Guam. She said of the competition, "I've gotten to know some Guam players who regularly come to Saipan for tournaments, and I was able to play with them again in this tournament. We are building a really fun rivalry."

As for her performance, she said, "I didn't have my best game, but I stayed patient and did the best with what I had. I don't practice as much as I used to so I try not to get frustrated when things

don't go my way. I was hoping to win but Louie Sunga from Guam played well and earned it."

For the hardest hole, she said it was No. 6. "This hole for the championship flight was a 464-yard par 4 into the wind. If you know golf, you know that's a really really long par 4 and having wind to battle makes it even tougher. I bogeyed the hole both days." As for the easiest, she said it was hole one as she birdied that par five both days.

The 31-year-old mechanical engineer designer then said of the course and conditions that weekend that "the golf course for the championship flight was 7,500 yards long, which is PGA Tour length. Honestly, it was exhausting playing a course so long. And playing in the rain on Saturday drained a lot of my energy. I usually enjoy playing really tough golf courses and this weekend was no different. Even though I didn't play my best, I still enjoyed CCP immensely."

As to what's next, she said. "I'm looking forward to defending my title at the NMC Open in March against local players and Guam players alike."

Saipan's Lydia Tan, Rose Rohringer, and Wan Sub Lee also joined the tournament.

NMI

From page 16

final hurrah, but Kuwait's defense was impenetrable.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's offense had more fuel left in their tank as Al Qarzaei netted their seventh goal in the 71st, followed by Al Dawood's goal in the 79th. Ahmed Mesyer wrapped it up at the 90th+2-minute mark for the 0-9 final.

The NMI's manager Khristelle Itaas said during their match day, the team had a meeting to discuss tactics.

"We showed the boys all your messages and we would once again like to thank you for your encouraging messages, and the boys were truly inspired to give their all."

She added, "In tonight's (last night's) match against the host team, Kuwait, the boys fought hard and put up a strong challenge. Unfortunately, the final score was 9-0. Either way, we are incredibly proud of them for pushing their limits and representing the CNMI with pride."

The team consisted of 23 players—Edward Arriola III, Gavis Ranada, Nolan Ngewakl, Riku

Takahashi, Yutaka Kadokura, Aidan Camacho, Chan Woong Yeom, Chan Seo Yeom, Rooney Gil, Terrel Kileleman-Hix, Benetton Haro, Akoni Matsumoto, Kian Estolas, Theo Joab, Taiga Namai-Scoggins, Jayson Tagabuel, Jack Raho, Taher Shakir, John Quidato, Eamon Tang, David Xing, Moshe Sikkell, and Mark Costales.

They were joined by head coach Konomi Suzuki, assistant coach Jireh Yobech, goalkeeper coach Takumi Kanda, Itaas, equipment manager Bernadette Horey, and team doctor/physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

TOURNEY

From page 16

with the game becoming anyone's to win—but K-Pro pulled ahead and held on to secure a narrow victory, 67-62. K-Pro's A. Suba led with 22 markers, while R. Macaraig scored 12, and T. Alcasid put up 10.

For the Cumpadres, A. Tabora scored 17, J. Gatchalian had 12, and E. Tabora contributed 11.

In other results of the open division, Unity Trade defeated CTSI-Friendly Market, 85-59; Royal Pacific outlasted Akkari 670 I, 57-55; Mekus slipped past Akkari 2, 78-71; and Flamingo Tavern edged Villaroyal, 71-67.

Results of the U17 division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The tournament will run every

Saturday from 6:30pm to 10pm, and Sunday from 9am to 9pm, until Dec. 22. It is free admission for everyone.

There are two divisions—open and U17.

In the open division, the 12 teams are Unity Trade, Mekus, Villaroyal Pawnshop, Flamingo Tavern, Elite, Royal Pacific/Islander, East Side Cuts, CTSI/Friendly Market 2/DPA Car Mart, K Pro Team, Compadres, Akkari 670 I, and Akkari 670 II.

There are six teams in the U17 division which are 670 Rollers I, 670 Rollers II, Café Meraki—Sophia Althea, Barbie's Salon—5Ps Colecciones, Triple R Auto Shop, and Ol'Aces.

The sponsors of the tourney are: TSL Foundation, Legends Sports Group, Islander Rent-A-Car, Success International, Triple R Auto Shop, Sophia Althea Jewelry Shop, 9 Eleven Resto Bar, Café Meraki, Royal Pacific Express Cargo, 5Ps Collecio-

nes, Barbie's Beauty Salon & Gen. Merchandise, Bourbon Street Café & Restaurant, JCE Services LLC, New ChangMing Market, 6JMS Sports Bar & Grill, and Pixley Law Office.

For more information on team registration or sponsorship opportunities, contact Eagle Moises Tagle Jr., SMEC president at saipanmagalahi2021@gmail.com, or (670) 788-1598; or Eagle Dennis Cortez, SMEC BOD/Basketball Committee chair at denzcortez28@gmail.com, or (670) 789-5588.

K-Pro 67 – A. Suba 22, R. Macaraig 12, T. Alcasid 10, J. Jugos 8, L. Lerio 6, A. Fundador 4, J. Joyner 3, M. Capalad 2.

Cumpadres 62 – A. Tabora 17, J. Gatchalian 12, E. Tabora 11, K. Young 6, C. Orosco 4, P. Movilla 4, J. Gunnacao 4, J. Javier 2, #2 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-38, 67-62.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	3	0	1.000	—
New York	1	1	.500	1½
Toronto	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	2
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	2

Southeast Division

Orlando	2	1	.667	—
Atlanta	2	1	.667	—
Miami	1	1	.500	½
Charlotte	1	2	.333	1
Washington	0	2	.000	1½

Central Division

Cleveland	3	0	1.000	—
Chicago	1	2	.333	2
Indiana	1	2	.333	2
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	2
Detroit	0	3	.000	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	2	1	.667	—
New Orleans	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	1	1	.500	½
San Antonio	1	1	.500	½
Houston	1	2	.333	1

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	3	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	2	1	.667	1
Portland	1	2	.333	2
Denver	0	2	.000	2½
Utah	0	2	.000	2½

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	3	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	2	1	.667	1
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	1
Golden State	2	1	.667	1
Sacramento	0	2	.000	2½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	230	146
Miami	2	5	0	.286	97	157
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	.250	150	170
New England	2	6	0	.250	124	197

South

Houston	6	2	0	.750	188	179
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	175	172
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	172	224
Tennessee	1	6	0	.143	120	196

North

Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	161	101
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	242	209
Cincinnati	3	5	0	.375	195	203
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	138	186

West

Kansas City	7	0	0	1.000	173	123
Denver	5	3	0	.625	173	120
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	132	91
Las Vegas	2	6	0	.250	144	210

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	6	2	0	.750	236	167
Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	171	132
Dallas	3	4	0	.429	150	198
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	99	149

South

Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	194	195
Tampa Bay	4	4	0	.500	235	213
New Orleans	2	6	0	.250	185	206
Carolina	1	7	0	.125	124	271

North

Detroit	6	1	0	.857	234	134
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	216	170
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	188	137
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	163	119

West

Arizona	4	4	0	.500	178	205
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	210	182
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	190	195
L.A. Rams	3	4	0	.429	144	174

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Maxey
scores 10 in
OT as 76ers
beat Pacers,
118-114
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

Ohtani set to
play for Dodgers
in Game 3
following
shoulder injury
PAGE 15



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI golfers stand out in Guam's Tourism Cup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The seven NMI golfers pose for a group photo during the 30th Annual Tourism Cup Championship golf tournament 2024 last weekend in Guam at the Country Club of The Pacific.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMi's golfers stood out in the 30th Annual Tourism Cup Championship golf tournament 2024 last weekend in Guam at the Country Club of The Pacific.



Out of seven, three players found themselves on the podium in their respective divisions against players from Guam.

In the Ladies Low Gross, Saipan's Sae Hee Kim won first place with gross scores



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's Sae Hee Kim, left, poses with her first place trophy during the awards ceremony of the 30th Annual Tourism Cup Championship golf tournament 2024 last weekend in Guam at the Country Club of The Pacific.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's Dominique Keiffer poses with her second place trophy during the awards ceremony of the 30th Annual Tourism Cup Championship golf tournament 2024 last weekend in Guam at the Country Club of The Pacific.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's Young Min Choi poses with her third place trophy during the awards ceremony of the 30th Annual Tourism Cup Championship golf tournament 2024 last weekend in Guam at the Country Club of The Pacific.

of 89 and 75.

Second went to Mina Manibusan with a gross of 90 and 78, while third place was Saipan's Young Min Choi with a gross of 85 and 85.

In the Men's Championship Flight, Louie Sunga was first with a gross of 76 and 76 for

See GOLFERS on Page 15

2nd SMEC-SMLEG hoops tourney underway



LEIGH GASES

K-Pro's A. Fundador runs across the court as he's chased by a Compadres player during their game in the 2nd Annual SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2024 last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2nd Annual SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2024 is underway after their first day of games last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament is organized by the Fraternal Order of Eagles' Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group.

In one of the games, K-Pro took down Compadres, 67-62. Full names of the rosters weren't provided by the organizers.

Both teams showcased a level skill set in the first few minutes of the game as they were deadlocked, 8-8,

then 10-10. However, K-Pro found their rhythm and left the Compadres in their dust with back-to-back baskets from fast-break plays and coast-to-coast plays by their starting five.

With nine minutes left in the first half, K-Pro led by 12, 22-10, as the Compadres stagnated after consecutive shots by A. Tabora.

K-Pro continued their offensive onslaught, but the Compadres bounced back from J. Gatchalian who caught fire and scored 10-points straight and kept the game close. At the end of the first half, K-Pro sported just a three-point lead, 38-35.

The second half featured a nail-biting battle for the lead, See TOURNEY on Page 15

NMI wraps up AFC qualifier with 0-9 loss

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team lost all three of their matches in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers after a 0-9 final against host Kuwait yesterday.

The NMI team was put in

tough Group G with powerhouse Australia, Indonesia, and Kuwait.

In their final game against Kuwait, they conceded their fewest goals of the tournament, losing 0-9.

Against Indonesia last Saturday, they lost, 0-10, and in their opener against

Australia, they fell, 0-19.

With their match against Kuwait, the NMI's defenses held until the 8th minute when Abdullah Al Qarzaei broke the ice. He went on to complete the hat-trick after a goal in the 30th minute, and in the 40th. By the 33rd minute, Fawaz Al Dawood



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team poses for a group photo before their final game against host team Kuwait in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers yesterday.